by private/JVCs and imports during the last three years was as under:—

(Million Tonnes)

Year	Production		Import
	Total	JVC/Private	
1995-96	35.167	0.650	27.342
1996-97	32.900	1.345	33.906
1997-98	33.858	2.514	34.494

(c) The investment made by private sector both Indian and foreign for exploration activity in exploration blocks and discovered fields during last three years is given below:

	95-96	96-97	97-98	Total
Amount US$(Million)	5.13	14.15	52.78	72.06

(d) The production of crude oil during the IXth Plan by ONGC/OIL/Pvt./JVC is estimated to as under:

(figs. in MMT)	
1997-98	- 33.858 (Actual)
1998-99	- 34.72 (MOU target)
1999-2000	- 36.550 (Estimated)
2000-01	- 37.221 (Estimated)
2001-02	- 36.978 (Estimated)

Efforts for exploration of oil by MNCs

1797. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item in the 'Economic Times' dated 10th February, 1999, captioned "India's efforts to draw oil, gas MNCs in exploration falters."

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have not been successful in attracting oil companies to explore and produce oil in Indian territories; if so, the reasons for this lukewarm response;

(c) whether any alternative avenues are being explored by Government; and

(d) if so, details of strategies to exploit potential Indian oil and hydrocarbon resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Under New Exploration licensing Policy, 48 blocks have been offered for bidding to both private sector and public sector companies on terms which provide a level playing field to investors.

The last date for submission of bids is 18th May, 1999. It is therefore, too early to assess the response of companies including MNCs.

Use of surplus from oil pool account

1798. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to a fall in the international prices of oil, the oil pool account is estimated to generate a

surplus of about Rs. 17,000 crores during 1998-99;

(b) whether this surplus will be used to clear the dues owed by Government to oil companies thus wiping out the deficit in the oil pool account;

(c) whether a substantial part of the surplus is likely to be taken away by the Finance Ministry to keep the fiscal deficit within manageable limits; and

(d) what are Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) With a view to contain the deficit in the Oil Pool Account and to enable the Oil Companies to maintain uninterrupted supplies of petroleum products in the country, the Government announced a comprehensive package on September 1, 1997. To end the oil pool deficit, the Government had decided that part of the liabilities of the Oil Coordination Committee to the Oil Companies shall be cleared through issue of Speical Government Bonds by making one time payment to the Oil Companies. Consequently, "10.5% Oil Companies (Non-Transferable) Special Government Bonds 2005" totaling to Rs. 12,984 crores were issued effective 02.03.98. Out of these bonds issued, an amount of Rs. 6382 crores has been sanctioned for redemption of Bonds. Thereafter, "On Account" payments of Rs. 1646 crores have been made till 28.2.99.

(c) and (d) The amount generated in the Oil Pool has been used in 1998-99 for redemption and debt servicing of the speical securities issued to oil companies in lieu of their outstanding claims under APM and not for bridging the fiscal deficit.

डीजल का आयात

1799. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:**
प्रो॰ रामगोपाल यादव:

क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) सरकार देश में डीजल की आपूर्ति करने के लिए किन-किन देशों से डीजल आयात करती है;

(ख) गत तीन माहों के दौरान आयातित डीजल का प्रतिमाह ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि यह आयातित डीजल सबसे घटिया किस्म का है, यदि हां, तो उक्त डीजल किस देश से मंगवाया जाता है;

(घ) क्या सरकार ने उस देश से डीजल की गुणवत्ता के संबंध में शिकायत की है, जहां से ऐसा डीजल आयात किया जाता है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इसका क्या परिणाम निकला और सरकार ने उस देश के डीजल का आयात रोकने और अच्छी गुणवत्ता वाले डीजल का आयात करने हेतु क्या निर्णय लिया है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार): (क) हमारे अधिकांश डीजल आयात मध्य पूर्वी देशों से होते हैं, जबकि डीजल की कुछ मात्रायें दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया से भी आती हैं।

(ख) अक्तूबर-दिसम्बर, 1998 के दौरान डीजल के माहवार आयात निम्नवत् हैं: —

(आंकड़े "000" मीट्रिक टन में)

माह	गैस तेल 1 प्रतिशत गंधकयुक्त	गैस तेल 0.25 प्रतिशत गंधकयुक्त
अक्तूबर, 1998	727.60	183.74
नवम्बर, 1998	552.25	132.45
दिसम्बर, 1998	324.98	1777.49